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# MIDWAY DRILLER

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\$1.50



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PHOTO BY DOUG KEELER/MIDWAY DRILLER

Umbrellas came out in Taft on Monday as a major storm dropped more than a half-inch of rain in Taft in just a couple of hours. A National Weather Service automated rain gauge measured .56 inches in three hours starting just before 9:30 a.m. No major problems were reported, just the usual street flooding. No more rain is expected for the next several days.

## TC Hall of Fame Dinner coming up

A few tickets are still available for the Taft College 2020 ONE Hall of Fame Dinner coming up on Nov. 7.

A track team and six individuals are going to be inducted into the college's hall of fame at a dinner and ceremony after two days of events.

The dinner will culminate the activities. It is being held in the new student center on Wildcat Way (next to the Kern County Library). The evening starts with a champagne reception from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the dinner starts at 5 p.m.

To reserve your seat and for further information, contact Jennifer Edmaiston at (661) 763-7829 or jedmaiston@taftcollege.edu.

Table sponsorships are still available for \$600.

Business attire is requested.

The inductees include the 1988 Cross Country State Championship

Team (outstanding team); Carolyn Hosking (extraordinary service); Craig Johnson (distinguished faculty);

George Kersh (outstanding male athlete); Harry Wilson (distinguished alumnus); Shelley Klein (distinguished confidential employee); and Sonja Swenson (distinguished faculty);

The celebration kicks off on Saturday with the "Blast from the Past" Reception at Taft College Student Center

The event is sponsored by Ascend Real Estate Property Management and begins at 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, prior to the reception and dinner, the

college is hosting a campus tour starting at 11 a.m. at the administration/students Services Building. Lunch will be provided.

Masks are required at these events and will be provided, as needed.

## Taft schools losing resource officers

By Doug Keeler  
Midway Driller Editor  
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Two Taft school districts will be without school resource officers after the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal by Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood to end the program

Youngblood says the KCSO is badly understaffed for patrol deputies and he needs to put the officers currently working in the schools back on the street.

The Taft Union High School District and Taft City School District are among six in the county that contract with the county for SROs.

Request were sent to both district for comments but not replies were received by press time

The others are

Greenfield Union, Standard, Edison elementary school districts and Wasco Union High.

Both Taft city and Taft Union have contracted for SROs for many years.

Both, at one time contract with Taft Police for a time, but that ended after a lawsuit was filed by the TUHSD in the wake of a January 2013 shooting on the TUHS campus.

As a result, insurance carriers for the schools and the city haven't been able to agree on contract language.

The school resource officer contract are annual contracts that can be cancelled by either side with 90 days notice.

The Board of Supervisors approved Youngblood's request to end the current contracts on Jan. 30.

## City Council tightening recycling center rules

Currently, Reverse Vending Machines and Small Collection Facilities are permitted in the general commercial, downtown commercial, and mixed use zone districts; with large collection facilities and processing facilities only permitted in the industrial zone district.

By Doug Keeler  
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The Taft City Council last week approved the first reading of changes in the city's ordinance governing recycling centers in the city. The changes are de-

signed to give the city more control over permitting recycling facilities near residential areas.

The process started almost two years ago when Planning Director Mark Staples made a informational presentation to the council after the largest operator of small

recycling facilities, re-Planet, closed all of its smaller facilities.

In addition, the city was already having issues with recycling facilities in or near residential areas.

A proposal to put a new recycling center in Pilot Plaza where one was closed several years ago was tabled in 2020 by the Taft Planning Commission. Several people living in the area wrote letters protesting the plan.

The existing ordinance requires all recycling centers in the city to have a conditional use permit, which gives the city greater control of

a permit.

The new ordinance would continue that but also keep any small recycling center at least 500 feet away from the nearest residence and "in conjunction with an existing commercial use, industrial use, or public facility."

In addition, they would be allowed to accept only glass, metal and beverage containers and have no power driven processing equipment except for reverse vending machines.

Small recycling centers will also be limited to no more than 500 square feet in size.

STARTING THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021  
West Side Family Health Care will open at  
7:00 am Monday - Friday  
Holiday and weekend hours will remain 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

# NEW HOURS



## West Side Family Health

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For information regarding classes, prices, registration deadlines, ages etc. please call 661.765.6677

